

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring. Please cancel claims 1-3 and 7-13 without prejudice or abandonment of the subject matter therein. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1 – 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Previously Presented). An electronic key system for a vehicle includes a control apparatus mounted on the vehicle and an electronic key, wherein  
the control apparatus comprises a transmitting antenna,  
the electronic key permits transmission of a response signal in response to receiving of a request signal transmitted from said control apparatus through the transmitting antenna ,  
said vehicle includes a seat which permits opening and closing movement and a locking apparatus for locking said seat to prevent opening of the seat until a unlocking instruction is supplied thereto;  
said control apparatus includes a verifier which verifies the response signal and a driver which outputs an unlocking instruction to said locking apparatus when it is discriminated that the response signal is a request from a legal user; and  
said transmitting antenna is installed on said seat or in the proximity of said seat .

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). An electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 4, wherein said transmitting antenna is provided on a left side face of said seat.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). An electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim

4, wherein

the vehicle comprises a seat handle which is used to manually open or close said seat, and is provided around a rear portion of said seat, and  
said transmitting antenna is installed on said seat handle .

Claims 7 – 13. (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently amended). The electronic key system for a vehicle of claim [[1]] **4**, wherein the control apparatus and the electronic key communicate at regular intervals during operation of the vehicle.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented). The electronic key system for a vehicle of claim 14 wherein a warning is issued by the control apparatus if communication between the control apparatus and the electronic key fails for a predetermined length of time.